

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 445

2018 Regular Session

Stokes

May 17, 2018

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 445 by Representative Stokes, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#3534) be adopted.
2. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#3534), on line 2, delete "members" and insert in lieu thereof "member"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 5 by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#3534), on line 19, after "of the" and before "licensing" insert "healthcare professional"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 5 by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#3534), on line 20, change "36:259(A)," to "36:259," and at the end of the line, change "board" to "healthcare professional licensing board"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 5 by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#3534), at the end of line 21, change "R.S. 36:259(A)," to "R.S. 36:259,"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 5 by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#3534), on line 25, after "consumer" delete the remainder of the line and insert in lieu thereof "member shall be a full voting member of the board with"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

In Senate Committee Amendment No. 5 by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#3534), at the beginning of line 27, change "members" to "member"

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Julie Stokes

Senator Fred Mills

Representative Frank A. Hoffmann

Senator Gerald Boudreaux

Representative Barry Ivey

Senator Regina Barrow

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 445

2018 Regular Session

Stokes

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

HEALTH: Provides relative to the Louisiana Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Require the governor to ensure that his appointments to the La. Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners, referred to hereafter as the "board", demonstrate race, gender, ethnic, and geographical diversity.
2. Increase the number of licensed professional vocational rehabilitation counselors on the five-member board from three to four.
3. Delete present law providing that two members of the five-member board shall be individuals from the public at large and insert in lieu thereof proposed law providing that one member of the board shall be a consumer member.
4. Provide that the consumer member shall be selected from the state at large and shall possess all of the following qualifications:
 - (a) Is a citizen of the U.S. and has been a resident of La. for at least one year immediately prior to appointment.
 - (b) Has attained the age of majority.
 - (c) Has never been licensed by any of the healthcare professional licensing boards created in present law, nor shall he have a spouse who has ever been licensed by one of those boards.
 - (d) Has never been convicted of a felony.
 - (e) Does not have and has never had a material financial interest in the healthcare profession.
5. Provide that the consumer member shall be a full voting member of the board with all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the consumer member shall not participate in the grading of individual examinations.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Make technical corrections.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law creates the five-member La. Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners, referred to hereafter as the "board". Provides that the members of the board are appointed by the governor from a list of candidates supplied by the

La. Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. Provides further that the membership of the board shall consist of three licensed professional vocational rehabilitation counselors and two individuals from the public at large.

Proposed law revises present law to update the name of the professional association which supplies the list of candidates for the board from "La. Association of Rehabilitation Professionals" to "International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals-La".

Proposed law revises present law to increase the number of licensed professional vocational rehabilitation counselors serving on the board from three to four.

Proposed law deletes present law providing that two members of the five-member board shall be individuals from the public at large. Provides instead that one member of the board shall be a consumer member. Provides that the consumer member may apply directly to the office of the governor.

Proposed law provides that the consumer member shall be selected from the state at large and shall possess all of the following qualifications:

- (1) Is a citizen of the U.S. and has been a resident of La. for at least one year immediately prior to appointment.
- (2) Has attained the age of majority.
- (3) Has never been licensed by any of the healthcare professional licensing boards created in present law, nor shall he have a spouse who has ever been licensed by one of those boards.
- (4) Has never been convicted of a felony.
- (5) Does not have and has never had a material financial interest in the healthcare profession.

Proposed law provides that the consumer member shall be a full voting member of the board with all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the consumer member shall not participate in the grading of individual examinations.

Present law requires the board to adopt the Code of Ethics of the National Association for Rehabilitation Professionals in the Private Sector. Proposed law revises present law to require the board to adopt the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification Code of Professional Ethics.

(Amends R.S. 37:3444(A)-(C) and 3445(D))